

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

COUNTRY U.S.S.R.

DATE: 25X1A6a

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT The 16th Lithuanian Division

DIST. 2 January 1947

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ORIGIN [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT

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1. 16th Lithuanian Red Banner "Klaipeda" Rifle Division.

Location: Entire Division in Vilna, Lithuanian S.S.R.

Subordinate to: Baltic Military District, Hq in Riga

Personalities: CO: Col. Mateyko (Formerly CO of the 167th Rifle Regt.)

Chief of Staff: Col. Ralikonis

Deputy Commander for Political Affairs:
Major General Matsiauskas

Components:

1. 156th Rifle Regiment

CO: Col. Luna

2. 167th Rifle Regiment

CO: Col. Medvedyev

Chief of Staff: Major Sukhochov

Political Deputy: Col. Michuda

3. 249th Rifle Regiment4. Artillery Regiment

Strength:

After the last demobilization, which comprised the 1916 - 1921 classes, the division was left with approximately 3,500 officers and enlisted men, i.e., at quarter strength. Replacements from the 1925, 1926, and 1927 classes were, however, beginning to arrive in June.

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History:

The 16th Lithuanian Division, which is composed almost exclusively of Lithuanians, was formed in 1942 near Balakhna (on the Volga, 25km NW of Gorki) as a result of the policy of organizing certain units on the basis of nationality. It was first committed on the Central Front, near Orel, and thereafter was constantly in action until the end of the war. The division was awarded the Order of the Red Banner, and for its participation in the capture of Klaipeda (Memel) was given the right to add the name of that city to its title.

2. Replacement Regiment:

To assure a supply of replacements for the division, the 50th Reserve Rifle Regiment was activated near Vilna shortly after the Red Army entered Lithuania. Later, as had been done in other Baltic republics, the formation of a Lithuanian Rifle Corps was planned, using the 16th Division and the 50th Reserve Regiment as a nucleus. The quality and morale of the replacements (who were conscripted from the local Lithuanian population) was so poor, however, that the plan was abandoned. The 50th Reserve Rifle Regt. was then deactivated and its personnel transferred to the Trans-Baikal Military District. The 16th Division, thus, remains the only exclusively Lithuanian division in the Soviet Army.

3. Miscellaneous:

- (1) In addition to the 16th Division, the following organizations are also in Vilna:

Vilna Infantry School
Vilna MVD School
Unidentified AA Regt.
Unidentified Division of the
MVD Internal Troops.

- (2) A recently arrived MVD Division is engaged in fighting partisans in the forests of the Raseiniai area, 90 km NW of Kaunas.

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